

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, VS, VN, EAID

SUBJECT: GOJ INDO-CHINA POLICY

1. FONOFF (HANABUSA) ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS OF VICE MINISTER TOGO CALLED POLCOUNS IN MARCH 28 TO SUMMARIZE PRESENT STATUS OF GOJ ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS WITH HANOI AND POLICY INTENTIONS VIS A VIS BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

2. REFERRING TO HABIB PRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON REPORTED STATE 63991, HANABUSA SAID GOJ UNDERSTANDS US POINT OF VIEW EXPRESSED BY HABIB AND IS STRONGLY SYMPATHETIC. GOJ, THEREFORE, WISHES TO EXPLAIN ITS POLICY IN SOME DETAIL TO SOLICIT US UNDERSTANDING OF JAPANESE POSITION.

3. HANABUSA SAID EIGHT-MAN NEGOTIATING TEAM FROM HANOI HAS BEEN DISCUSSING FIVE BILLION YEN GRANT PACKAGE AND HAS PROVEN TO BE OBSTINATE AND UNPLEASANT TO DEAL WITH. GOJ HAD COMMITTED ITSELF TO MAKE "BEST EFFORT" TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS AND SIGN AGREEMENT BY END OF MARCH. ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM, GOJ NOW INTENDS TO SEND NORTH VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATORS HOME WITH AGREEMENT INSTALLED BUT NOT SIGNED. THE OBSTENSIBLE REASON FOR REFUSAL TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT IN TOKYO

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WILL BE GOJ DESIRE TO DELETE FROM THE AGREEMENT COMMODITIES

LIST SEVERAL ITEMS THAT GOJ DOES NOT NOW WISH INCLUDED.
HANABUSA MENTIONED ONLY THE EXAMPLE OF 32-TON DUMP TRUCKS
WHICH GOJ BELEIVES MAY CREATE PUBLIC IMPRESSION OF POTENTIAL
MILITARY USE. GOJ HAS MADE NO COMMITMENTS CONCERNING PACE OF NEG-
OTIATIONS ON BALANCE OF 12 TO 14.5 BILLION YEN TOTAL GRANT
VALUE. HANABUSA SAID HE CULD ASSURE US THAT GOJ WOULD PROCEED
CAREFULLY IN LIGHT OF INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS.

4. HANABUSA SAID THAT THE SAME TIME GOJ INTENDED TO MOVE
RAPIDLY TO IMPLEMENT AND GRANT COMMITMENTS WITH GVN. HE
SAID NINE BILLION YEN LOAN PACKAGE WAS GIVEN FORMAL APPROVAL BY
CABINET EARLIER MARCH 1, AND FINAL AGREEENT WITH GVN WOULD BE
SIGNED SAME DATE IN SAIGON. FURTHERMORE, GOJ HAS DECIDED TO
MOVE AHEAD IMMEDIATELY WITH PREVIOUSLY AGREED SEVEN BILLION YEN
GRANT AID PROGRAM. GOJ IS NOW DISCUSSION WITH GVN SUBSTITUTION
OF SOME COMMODITY ITEMS. GOJ WISHES IF POSSIBLE TO EMPHASISZE
HUMANATARIAN ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND OTHERS, RATHER THAN
SOME OF ORIGINALLY PLANNED ITEMS SUCH AS AGRICULTRUAL HARDWARE,

5. HANABUSA EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE OF GOJ POLICY POSITION BASED
ON ADHERENCE TO PARIS ACCORDS BY ALL PARTIES, THERE IS STRONG
SENTIMENT AMONG GOVERNMENT LEADERS AGAINST PRESENT ACTIONS OF
NORTH VIETNAM. GOJ, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT IT MUST
DEAL WITH DIFFERENT CURRENT SITUATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS
LONG-TERM PLAN FOR INDOCHINA. GOJ FEELS THAT IT ULTIMATELY WILL
BE USEFUL TO JAPAN, THE US AND OTHR FREE WORLD NATIONS TO
ESTABLISH ASSURED TO HANOI AND THE NVN GOVERNMENT.
HANABUSA SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATING
TEAM IS COMPOSED OF THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION AND ONE OTHER
FROM THE NVN FOREIGN OFFICE, WITH THE OTHER SIX DELEGATES
REPRESENTING ECONOMIC AGENCIES IN HANOI. HE SAID THERE HAS BEEN
CONSIDERABLE TENSION BETWEEN THESE GROUPS, WITH THE FORIEGN
OFFICE REPRESENTATIVES TENDING TO ADOPT STRIDENT POLITICAL
STANCES AND ECONOMIC AGENCY REPRESENTIVES EAGER TO CONCLUDE
REASONABLE AGREEMENT FOCUSSED ON GETTING AHEAD WIT THE
DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. GOJ BELEIVES IT IS BOUND TO BE
CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE TO HAVE MORE NORTH VIETNAMESE EXPOSED
TO OUTSIDE WORLD. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE
PRESENT SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM, EVERYONE AGREES GOJ SHOULD
DO ALL PPOSSIBLE TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF ENDORSEMENT OF NVN
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POLICIES OR DIRECT ASSITANCE TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WAR EFFORT.
GOJ COULD NOT TAKE ACTION SUCH AS REFUSAL TO GO AHEAD WITH
ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES OR AID AGREEMENT BECAUSE IT WOULD
MEAN JETTISONING THE ENTIRE GOJ POLICY POSITION IN INDOCHINA.
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